11/16/67

Professor Says Oswald Was Not Lone Assassin

Claims Four Shots Fired from Three Guns

By SID MOODY

NEW YORK (AP). — A philosophy professor turned investigator says the Warren Commission was wrong in ruling that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone killer of President Kennedy.

"There were four shots from three guns," writes Josiah Thompson in an article in the Dec. 2 issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Thompson based his conclusions on his own detailed investigation of films of the assassination, the Warren Commission's 26 volumes and further commission evidence in the National Archives.

Thompson says his "new evidence does not prove that the assassination was a conspiracy. Nor does it prove Oswald's innocence. It shows that the question of Oswald's guilt must remain—four years after the event—still unanswered."

'NOT SOLVED'

In an editorial the Post said: "We believe the Kennedy mystery has not been solved, but the case is not closed.

"Many readers—and perhaps many officials, too—react to the whole subject by turning away and trying to avoid it. Is the question really too ugly to be raised, or are we just too childish to face reality?"

Thompson, 32, a Navy veteran and graduate of Yale University, now teaches at Haverford College. His article was extracted from his book, "Six Seconds in Dallas," not yet published.

Thompson argues that the first and third shots fired at the Presidential motorcade struck Kennedy. Most likely they were fired from the Texas School Book Depository but not necessarily by Oswald, he says. The second shot, Thompson claims, was fired from another building to the rear of the motorcade—most probably the Dallas County Records Building, cater-cornered from the depository. This bullet, he theorizes, was the one that wounded Gov. John Connally.

3RD HIT CLAIMED

Almost immediately after the third shot hit Kennedy in the head, Thompson claims a fourth shot also struck the President's head. Thompson believes this shot was fired from in front of the presidential limousine in the vicinity of a fence and some trees where an eyewitness had seen a puff of smoke and where several cars had been seen shortly before the assassination.

Thompson based his conclusions in part on an amateur movie filmed during the assassination by Abraham Zapruder, a spectator. The movie was also central to the Warren Commission's findings. Thompson, however, says his studies were made of a sharper copy of the original—purchased from Zapruder by Life magazine for $25,000—than the film the commission had, which he says is a copy of a copy of the original.

He also doubts, as have many other critics of the commission, that commission exhibit 399, an almost undamaged bullet, fired from Oswald's rifle, could have wounded both Kennedy and Connally, as the commission has alleged. Thompson claims bullet 399 probably penetrated only a short way into the President's back, fell out later at Parkland Hospital during the President's emergency treatment, and was found by a souvenir hunter who placed it in a nearby stretcher when he realized its significance.

ONE-BULLET THEORY

The commission concluded bullet 399 had wounded both Kennedy and the Texas governor and subsequently fell from Connally onto his stretcher. This is the so-called "single bullet theory" which is central to the Warren Report.

In attacking this and the theory of a single assassin, Thompson refers to discrepancies of eye and ear witnesses to the crime as well as medical testimony which have been variously interpreted by the Warren Commission as well as its critics.

In reconstructing the assassination, Thompson says his "scenario is an amalagam of hard fact and educated speculation."

He draws his theory of three assassins from interpretation of the facts of timing of the frames of the Zapruder film, but he does not speculate on who the gunmen are.